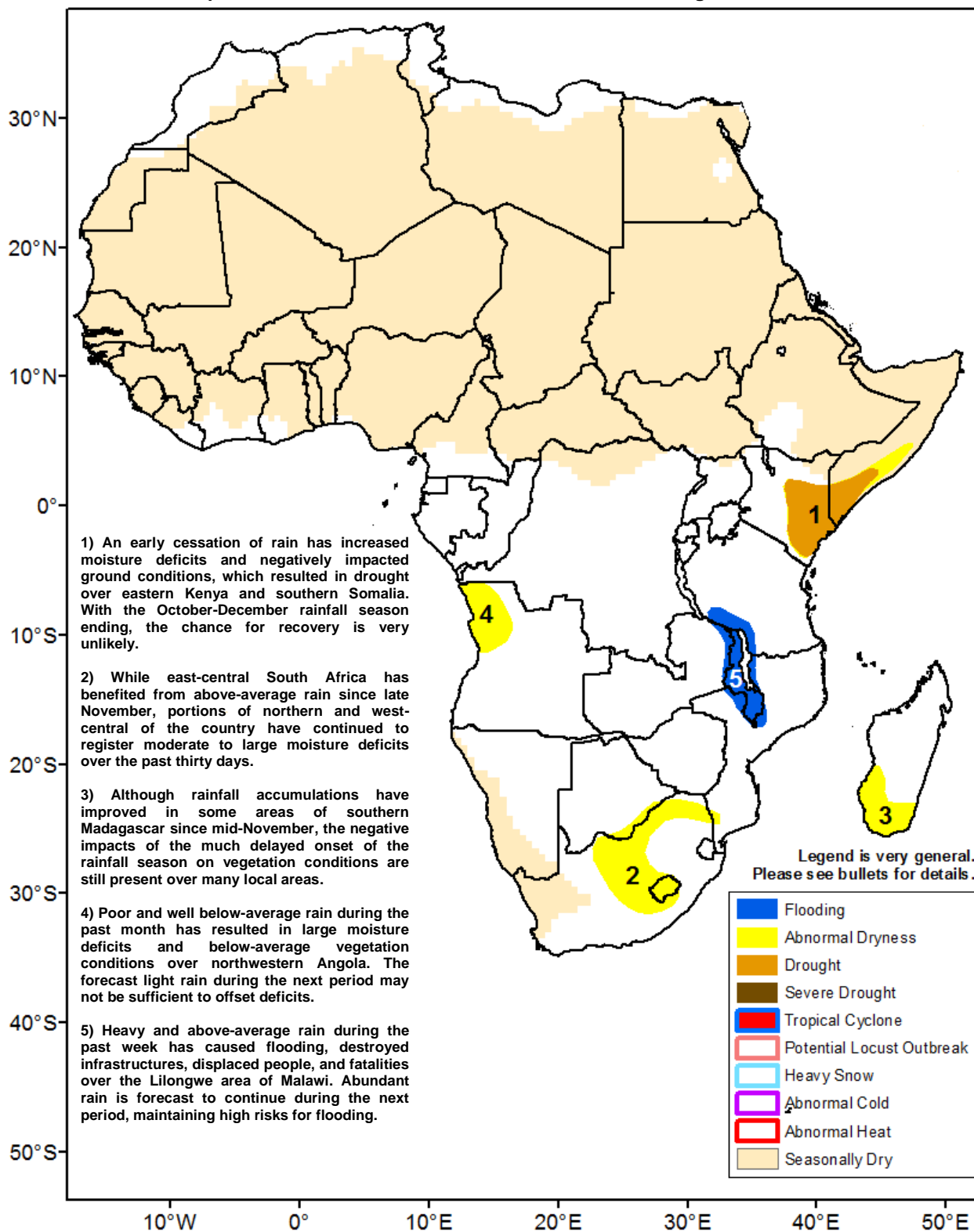




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 21 – 27, 2017

- Suppressed rain since mid-November sustained drought in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia.
- Rainfall deficits persisted over areas of Southern Africa due to inhomogeneous rainfall distribution.



End of the seasonal rain in the Horn of Africa

During the past week, clear weather patterns dominated the Greater Horn of Africa. This resulted in suppressed rain throughout the sub-region. Light to moderate rain fell farther south across western and the unimodal region of southern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). This past week's lack of rain followed four consecutive weeks of suppressed rain since mid-November, which indicated an early cessation of the *Short-Rains*, October-December rainfall season. As a result, thirty-day rainfall deficits increased over eastern and central Kenya, southern Somalia, and northern Tanzania, with thirty-day deficits exceeding 50mm (**Figure 2**). The erratic rainfall distribution since October has already negatively impacted ground conditions over eastern Kenya and portions of southern Somalia as indicated by the recent vegetation indices. As the season is ending, the chance for a recovery is unlikely.

During the next outlook period, drier weather is expected to continue over Eastern Africa. However, little to light rain is possible throughout southern and eastern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

Dry conditions emerged over eastern Southern Africa.

Over the recent few weeks, the bulk of rainfall was concentrated across the northern portions of Southern Africa from Angola, Zambia, Malawi, to northern Mozambique. During the past week, similar weather patterns were observed over the sub-region, with moderate to heavy rain over eastern Angola, much of Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique (**Figure 1**). In Malawi, this past week's torrential rain resulted in flooding, destroyed infrastructures, fatalities, and displaced people over the Lilongwe area, according to reports. In contrast, little to light rain was observed elsewhere. Over eastern Southern Africa, limited rain over the past few weeks has increased thirty-day rainfall deficits throughout Zimbabwe, southern and central Mozambique, and northern South Africa (**Figure 2**). Moderate to large thirty-day moisture deficits were also recorded over northwestern Angola, east-central Namibia, Botswana, and west-central South Africa. An analysis of recent vegetation indices indicated that some areas have begun to be negatively impacted by the poor rainfall distribution since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon. Below-average biomass conditions were registered over northwestern Angola, west-central and northern portions of South Africa, and areas of southern Mozambique. If good rain does not return over the upcoming few weeks across eastern Southern Africa, moisture deficits will strengthen and amplify, which could adversely affect cropping activities over many local areas of the region.

During the next outlook period, heavy rain is forecast over southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, central and northern Mozambique, the Comoros Islands, and central Madagascar. Over Malawi, the forecast additional rain could exacerbate conditions on the grounds or even trigger new flooding over local areas. Abundant rain is also expected over Madagascar, which may trigger localized flooding. Farther south, moderate rain is forecast over central and eastern South Africa, while light rain is expected elsewhere.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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